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1744

1744 (MDCCXLIV) was a leap year starting on Wednesday of the Gregorian calendar and a leap year starting on Sunday of the Julian calendar, the 1744th year of the Common Era (CE) and *Anno Domini* (AD) designations, the 744th year of the 2nd millennium, the 44th year of the 18th century, and the 5th year of the 1740s decade. As of the start of 1744, the Gregorian calendar was 11 days ahead of the Julian calendar, which remained in localized use until 1923.

Millennium:	2nd millennium
Centuries:	17th century · **18th century** · 19th century
Decades:	1720s · 1730s · **1740s** · 1750s · 1760s
Years:	1741 · 1742 · 1743 · **1744** · 1745 · 1746 · 1747

1744 in various calendars

Gregorian calendar	1744 *MDCCXLIV*
Ab urbe condita	2497
Armenian calendar	1193 ԹՎ ՌՃՂԳ
Assyrian calendar	6494
Balinese saka calendar	1665–1666
Bengali calendar	1151
Berber calendar	2694
British Regnal year	17 Geo. 2 – 18 Geo. 2
Buddhist calendar	2288
Burmese calendar	1106
Byzantine calendar	7252–7253
Chinese calendar	癸亥年 (Water Pig) 4440 or 4380 — *to* — 甲子年 (Wood Rat) 4441 or 4381

Contents

Events
- January–March
- April–June
- July–September
- October–December
- Date unknown

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Events

January–March

- January 24 – The Dagohoy rebellion in the Philippines begins, with the killing of Father Giuseppe Lamberti.
- February – Violent storms frustrated planned French Invasion of Britain.
- February 22–23 – Battle of Toulon: The British fleet is defeated by a joint Franco-Spanish fleet.
- March 1 (approximately) – The Great Comet of 1744, one of the brightest ever seen, reaches perihelion.
- March 15 – France declares war on Great Britain.

April–June

- April – *The Female Spectator* (a monthly) is founded by Eliza Haywood in England, the first periodical written for women by a woman.

- April 2 – The *First Rules of Golf* are drawn up at Leith, for the first golf competition.[1][2]
- April 20 – Battle of Villafranca (1744): A joint French and Spanish force defeats Britain and Sardinia.
- May 11 – Russia's treasury begins an effort to reduce the number of copper five-kopeck pieces (20 of which equal a Russian ruble) by declaring that it will buy them back at a ruble for every 20 until August 1, after which kopecks would be redeemed at a ruble for every 25; then at the rate of 33 for a ruble on October 1, and 50 for a ruble on and after August 28, 1746.[3]
- May 22 – The Union of Germany is proclaimed in Frankfurt Frederick II of Prussia, as articles of union are signed between Prussia, Hesse-Kassel and the Rhineland Palatinate [4]
- May 24 – After receiving the news from Europe that Great Britain and France are at war, the French Army at Louisbourg attacks the British settlement at Fort William Augustus at Canso, Nova Scotia and forces its surrender [5]
- June 13 – Alexey Bestuzhev-Ryumin is named as the new Chancellor of the Russian Empire by the Empress Elizabeth [6]
- June 15 – Commodore George Anson's voyage around the world concludes after four years as HMS *Centurion* returns to England at Spithead and Anson is greeted as a hero.[7]
- June 28 – At the age of 15, Princess Sophie of Anhalt-Zerbst, the future Empress of Russia, is received into the Russian Orthodox Church after converting from the Lutheran faith. Upon her conversion to the Russian Orthodox religion, she is given the name Yekaterina (Catherine). In 1762, she takes the throne as the Empress Catherine II, later known as Catherine the Great.

July–September

- July 19 – Battle of Casteldelfino: France defeats the Kingdom of Sardinia.
- July 29 – Nader Shah lays siege to the Ottoman citadel of Kars.
- August 12 – Battle of Velletri in the Kingdom of Naples: Spanish-Neapolitan forces defeat those of the Archduchy of Austria.
- September 30 – Battle of Madonna dell'Olmo: France and Spain defeat the Kingdom of Sardinia.

October–December

Coptic calendar	1460–1461
Discordian calendar	2910
Ethiopian calendar	1736–1737
Hebrew calendar	5504–5505
Hindu calendars	
- *Vikram Samvat*	1800–1801
- *Shaka Samvat*	1665–1666
- *Kali Yuga*	4844–4845
Holocene calendar	11744
Igbo calendar	744–745
Iranian calendar	1122–1123
Islamic calendar	1156–1157
Japanese calendar	Kanpō 4 / Enkyō 1 (延享元年)
Javanese calendar	1668–1669
Julian calendar	Gregorian minus 11 days
Korean calendar	4077
Minguo calendar	168 before ROC 民前168年
Nanakshahi calendar	276
Thai solar calendar	2286–2287
Tibetan calendar	阴水猪年 (female Water-Pig) 1870 or 1489 or 717 — *to* — 阳木鼠年 (male Wood-Rat) 1871 or 1490 or 718

- October 4 – In one of the greatest disasters for the Royal Navy, HMS *Victory* sinks in a storm in the English Channel, killing 1,100 sailors and officers it had been bringing back from Gibraltar to England, including Admiral John Balchen [8] The wreck will be located 264 years later, in January, 2009 [9]
- October 12 – The creator of binomial nomenclature for the identification of plant and animal species, Carl Linnaeus, is selected as president of the Royal Swedish Academy of Science, succeeding the late Anders Celsius, who had devised the centigrade measurement of temperature [10]

February 22–23: Battle of Toulon

- October 19 – William Shirley, the British colonial Governor of the Province of Massachusetts Bay , announces the declaration of war against the Mi ' kmaq and Maliseet Indian tribes [11]
- October 25 – The Massachusetts General Court, colonial legislature for the Massachusetts Bay Province, approves an incentive for the killing of enemy Indians, authorizing the payment of 100 Massachusetts pounds for the scalping of a Mi'kmaq or Maliseet Indian, and 50 for the scalps of women or children [12]
- October 25 – Spanish explorers Antonio de Ulloa and Jorge Juan y Santacilla complete their mission of exploration and depart from the Peruvian seaport of Callao for a return to Spain [13]
- November 1 – Second Silesian War: The Prussian Army, under the command of Field Marshal Kurt Christoph Graf von Schwerin, begins the bombardment of Prague. The Bohemian capital surrenders after two weeks [14]
- December 18 – Queen Maria Theresa of Austria issues a proclamation to rid Bohemia of its Jewish residents, with the Jews to leave Prague over the next two weeks, and then to depart from Bohemia entirely in 1745 [15]

Date unknown

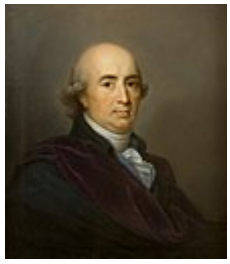
- The third French and Indian War, known as King George's War, breaks out at Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia.
- The First Saudi State is founded by Muhammad bin Saud.
- *Tommy Thumb's Pretty Song Book*, sequel to *Tommy Thumb's Song Book*, containing the oldest version of many well-known and popular rhymes, is published in London.

Births

- January 10 – Thomas Mifflin, 1st Governor of Pennsylvania (d. 1800)
- February 6 – Pierre-Joseph Desault, French anatomist and surgeon (d. 1795)
- February 23 – Mayer Amschel Rothschild, German banker, founder of the Rothschild banking dynasty (d. 1812)
- May 13 – Captain Abraham Lincoln, American military officer in the Virginia colonial militia during the American Revolution; grandfather and namesake of the 16th U.S. president; near Exeter Township in what was then Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania (d. 1786)
- May 19 – Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, queen of George III of Great Britain (d. 1818)

Jean-Baptiste Lamarck

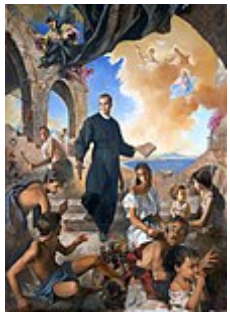
- May 21 – Samuel Ireland, British author and engraver (d. 1800)
- May 31 – Richard Lovell Edgeworth, Anglo-Irish, politician writer and inventor (d. 1817)
- July 17 – Elbridge Gerry, 5th Vice President of the United States, American politician (d. 1814)
- July 20 – Joshua Clayton, American politician (d. 1798)
- August 1 – Jean-Baptiste Lamarck, French naturalist (d. 1829)
- August 16 – Pierre Méchain, French astronomer (d. 1804)
- August 25 – Johann Gottfried Herder, German writer (d. 1803)
- September 25 – King Frederick William II of Prussia (d. 1797)
- November 11 – Abigail Adams, First Lady of the United States (d. 1818)
- *date unknown* – Marie Barch, Danish ballerina (d. 1827)


Johann Gottfried Herder

Abigail Adams

Deaths

- January 11 – James Hamilton, 7th Earl of Abercorn (b. 1686)
- January 22 – Pierre Lepature, French artist (b. 1659)
- January 23 – Giambattista Vico, Italian philosopher and historian (b. 1668)
- January 26 – Ludwig Andreas von Khevenhüller, Austrian field marshal (b. 1683)
- February 11 – Hedvig Taube, mistress to King Frederick I of Sweden (b. 1714)
- February 14 – John Hadley, English mathematician (b. 1682)
- March 3 – Jean Barbeyrac, French jurist (b. 1674)
- March 4 – John Anstis, English herald (b. 1669)
- April 25 – Anders Celsius, Swedish astronomer (b. 1701)
- May 25 – Charles Edzard, Prince of East Frisia (b. 1716)
- May 30 – Alexander Pope, English writer (b. 1688)
- June 29
  - André Campra, French composer (b. 1660)
  - John Eames, English academic (b. 1686)
- June 30 – Januarius Maria Sarnelli, Italian Roman Catholic priest and blessed (b. 1702)
- July – Mihai Racoviță, Prince of Moldavia and Prince of Wallachia
- August 9 – James Brydges, 1st Duke of Chandos, English patron of the arts (b. 1673)
- August 13 – John Cruger, Dutch-born Mayor of New York (b. 1678)
- August 26 – William Byrd II, prominent planter from Virginia (b. 1674)
- September 28 – Princess Thérèse of France, daughter of Louis XV of France (b. 1736)
- October 10 – Johann Heinrich Schulze, German professor and polymath (b. 1687)
- October 18 – Sarah Churchill, Duchess of Marlborough, English friend of Anne, Queen of Great Britain (b. 1660)
- October 31 – Leonardo Leo, Italian composer (b. 1694)
- December 8 – Marie Anne de Mailly-Nesle, French mistress of King Louis XV (b. 1717)
- December 23 – Élisabeth Charlotte d'Orléans, duchess and regent of Lorraine (b. 1676)
- *date unknown* – Catherine Jérémie, French-Canadian botanist (b. 1644)


Blessed Januarius Maria Sarnelli

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